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10/629,245	07/28/2003	John W. Barrus	74451P158	7586

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EXAMINER

CAPUTO, LISA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/629,245

Applicant(s)

BARRUS, JOHN W.

Examiner

Lisa M. Caputo

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 28-30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed 7 February 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 14-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Torchalski (U.S. Patent No. 6,832,726) in view of Nishijima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,431,288, from hereinafter "Nishijima").

Torchalski teaches a barcode optical character recognition system. Regarding claim 14, Torchalski teaches an apparatus and method for capturing an original machine-readable code (MRC) at a location of a document, generating a new MRC based on the original MRC, the new MRC representing the same data of the original MRC and replacing the original MRC with the new MRC, when it is taught that a label 30 placed on a scanner 22 (MRC reader) can be scanned, read, and duplicated using the computer 24 (controller) and its software package (i.e. the computer software package is configured to convert the scanned label 30 to a label format and in so doing, recognizes text on the label as text, graphics as graphics, etc. And anything on the label which is not specifically recognized by the software is characterized as being a graphic. Preferably, the computer software package is configured to recognize

barcodes as barcodes and specifically, what type of barcode it is) (see Figures 1-3 and 6, col 3, line 15 to col 4 line 45). Hence, Torchalski teaches that the new code is able to replace the original code since the new code itself exists (i.e. it would be used since it is a better version of the existing barcode).

Although Torchalski teaches that a label with the new code is able to be placed on a document, Torchalski fails to specifically teach that the new MRC is located at substantially the same location as the original MRC with respect to the rest of the contents of the document.

Nishijima teaches a mail sorting apparatus. Nishijima discloses that the bar code printing area designation section 62 designates a bar code printing area 16 from the blank area detected by the blank area detection section 61, as shown in FIG. 3. The bar code printing section 80 prints a bar code 17 corresponding to the address read by the character recognition section 70 on the printing area 16. The character recognition section 70 performs character recognition of an address 11 on the basis of the video signal output from the scanning section 40, and the address position information and character height information output from the address position detection section 50, and converts the recognition result into bar code information. The bar code information is output to the bar code printing section 80 (see Figures 1 and 3, col 3 line 64 to col 4 line 27). Hence, Nishijima teaches that an original machine readable code can be captured via character recognition, and that a new barcode with the same address information is placed in the substantially same location with respect to the rest of the document.

Nishijima shows that the document codes can be replaced within certain sections of the document.

In view of the teaching of Nishijima, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to be able to place the new machine readable code at substantially the same location as the original code so that if the original code is damaged, the new code would be able to display the same information in order for the system to continue to work properly (i.e. if the code is able to be read and processed, there is less room for error). It is favorable to be able to choose where to put the new code so that it is easily accessible.

Regarding claim 15, Torchalski teaches a scanner 22 to scan the document (see Figure 2, col 3, lines 45-55).

Regarding claims 16-19, Torchalski fails to specifically teach determining the dimensions of the original MRC, that the pixel boundaries are utilized in order to decide MRC placement and direction, and that the location of the original MRC is a clear or solid color.

Nishijima teaches that the document is scanned and that the original code is located and recognized by utilizing pixel boundaries (see Figure 2, col 3, lines 20-64). Further, Nishijima teaches that the original area is a clear or solid color when it is taught that there is a clear blank area detection section 61 (see Figure 1, col 4, lines 1-20).

In view of the teaching of Nishijima, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the use of pixel boundaries in order to determine the placement and direction of the code because the

use of pixels is standard in determining the orientation of an object, hence it is favorable to use because it is conventional and cost efficient. In addition, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to ensure that the guard area is a clear or solid color so that the code itself is easy to recognize (i.e. the code will stand out from the background).

Regarding claims 20-21, Torchalski teaches that it is determined whether the original MRC has a sufficient quality and prompts for input on whether the original MRC needs to be replaced if it is determined that the original MRC lacks sufficient quality (i.e. contrast/orientation), wherein the new MRC is generated and printed in response to the input received (see Figure 6, col 4, lines 20-35).

Regarding claims 22-23, Torchalski teaches that if a certain signature of the document is read, the step of generating and printing the new MRC are performed automatically if the format of the document is recognized (see Figure 6, col 4, lines 20-35).

Regarding claims 24-25, Torchalski teaches that the original MRC is a barcode (the computer software package is configured to recognize barcodes) or an OCR text (the computer software package provides barcode OCR) (see col 4 lines 10-20 and lines 55-60).

Regarding claims 26-27, Torchalski teaches a communication interface capable of coupling to a network to receive and transmit documents over the network (i.e. in the form of printer control codes linked and distributed) (see Figure 1, col 3, lines 20-32, col 4, lines 45-55).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-13 and 28-30 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Applicant's arguments regarding the method claims are persuasive as the prior art fails to teach the specific steps of replacing the machine readable code on the document.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 7 February 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive as they pertain to apparatus claims 14-27. The arguments, however, are persuasive as they pertain to method claims 1-13 and 28-30.
6. Examiner has provided a rejection with the obviousness combination of Torchalski and Nishijima to teach all of the limitations of the apparatus claims as recited.

In response to applicant's arguments on page 9 of the Remarks, that Torchalski does not replace the barcode, examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that there is indeed a type of replacement in effect since there is a new barcode in existence.

In response to applicant's arguments on page 10 of the Remarks, that a mailing address printed as letters or characters in Nishijima is not considered a machine readable code, examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that, as broadly claimed, a "machine readable code" can indeed be characters or letters since characters and letters are coding for text and can be scanned with optical character recognition. In addition, Nishijima also teaches of coded information when it is taught that there is a bar code printing area designation section 62 that designates a bar code printing area 16

from the blank area detected by the blank area detection section 61, as shown in FIG.

3.

In response to applicant's arguments on page 11 of the Remarks, that there is no suggestion to combine with each other, examiner respectfully disagrees and submits that both references teach of utilizing and scanning existing machine readable codes for conversion into new codes. Further, Nishijima is used to show that codes can be replaced in certain locations on a document. In addition, examiner submits that the conversion step of converting the mailing address into a barcode in Nishijima is indeed replacing the mailing address since the barcode itself exists and is new, and is further utilized.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ***Lisa M. Caputo*** whose telephone number is (571) 272-

Art Unit: 2876

2388. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 8:30AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached at **(571) 272-2398**. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to **[lisa.caputo@uspto.gov]**.

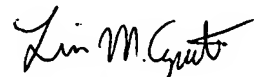
All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lisa M. Caputo

AU 2876

April 29, 2007



LISA CAPUTO
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER